Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 16, 51-53, 68-71, and 73 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 11, and 48 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable (but now canceled) claim 6. Claim 11 depends from claim 1, and therefore also includes the same limitation. Claim 48 has also been amended accordingly.

New claim 83 has been introduced to recite subject matter deleted from claim 1 in lieu of the above-noted amendment. The pending claims are 1, 11, 48, 49, 54, 66, 67, and 74-83.

The rejection of claims 1, 11, 48-49, 51-54, 61-71, and 73-82 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (1st para.) for failure to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments.

The objection to claim 6 and claim 16 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.

November 1, 2005

Date

Edwin V. Merkel

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